C. 115 d 7.

SOME

Obſervations

Upon a PAPER, Call'd, The

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

Moſt Honourable the *Privy-Council*

IN

ENGLAND,

Relating to WOOD's *Half-pence.*

By M. B. *Drapier.*

AUTHOR of the LETTER to the *SHOP-KEEPERS,* &c.

The Second EDITOIN Corrected.

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To the NOBILITY and GENTRY of the Kingdom of IRELAND.

HAVING already written *Two Letters* to People of my own Level, and Condition; and having now very preſſing Occaſion for writing a *Third*; I thought I could not more properly Addreſs it than to *Your Lordſhips and Worſhips.*

The Occaſion is this. A Printed Paper was ſent to me on the 18th Inſtant, Entitled, *A REPORT of the COMMITTEE of the LORDS of His MAJESTY's moſt Honourable PRIVY-COUNCIL in* England, *relating to Mr. WOOD's HALF-PENCE and FARTHINGS.* There is no Mention made where the Paper was Printed, but I ſuppoſe it to have been in *Dublin*; and I have been told that the Copy did not come over in the *Gazette*, but in the *London Journal*, or ſome other Print of no Authority or Conſequence; and for any thing that Legally appears to the contrary, it may be a Contrivance to *Fright* us, or a *Project* of ſome *Printer*, who hath a Mind to make a Penny by Publiſhing ſomething upon a Subject, which now employs all our Thoughts in this *Kingdom.* Mr. *WOOD* in Publiſhing this Paper would inſinuate to the World, as if the *Committee* had a greater Concern for his Credit and Private Emolument, than for the Honour of the *Privy-Council* and both *Houſes of Parliament* Here, and for the Quiet and Welfare of this whole Kingdom; For

it

it ſeems intended as a Vindication of Mr. *WOOD*, not without ſeveral ſevere Remarks on the Houſes of *Lords* and *Commons* of *Ireland*.

The whole is indeed written with the Turn and Air of a Pamphlet, as if it were a Diſpute between *WILLIAM WOOD* on the one Part, and the *Lords Juſtices*, *Privy-Council* and *Both Houſes* of *Parliament* on the other; the Deſign of it being to Clear and Vindicate the Injured Reputation of WILLIAM WOOD, and to Charge the other Side with caſting Raſh and Groundleſs Aſperſions upon him.

But if it be really what the Title Imports, Mr. *WOOD* hath treated the *COMMITTEE* with great Rudeneſs, by Publiſhing an Act of Theirs in ſo unbecoming a Manner, without their Leave, and before it was communicated to the *Government* and *Privy-Council* of *Ireland*, to whom the Committee adviſed that it ſhould be Tranſmitted. But with all Deference be it ſpoken, I do not conceive that a Report of a Committee of the Council in *England* is *Hitherto* a Law in either *Kingdom*; and until any Point is determined to be a LAW, it remains diſputable by every Subject.

This (May it pleaſe your *Lordſhips* and *Worſhips*) may ſeem a ſtrange Way of diſcourſing in an *Illiterate Shop Keeper*. I have endeavoured (although without the Help of Books) to improve that ſmall Portion of Reaſon which GOD hath pleaſed to give me, and when Reaſon plainly appears before me, I cannot turn away my Head from it. Thus for Inſtance, if any Lawyer ſhould tell me that ſuch a Point were Law, from which many Groſs Palpable Abſurdities muſt follow, I would not, I could not believe him. If Sir *Edward Cook* ſhould poſitively aſſert (which he no

where does, but the direct contrary) that a *Limited Prince*, could by his *Prerogative* oblige his Subjects to take Half an Ounce of Lead, ſtamped with His Image, for Twenty Shillings in Gold, I ſhould Swear he was *deceived* or a *Deceiver*, becauſe a Power like that, would leave the whole Lives and Fortunes of the People entirely at the Mercy of the Monarch : Yet this, in Effect, is what *Wood* hath advanced in ſome of his Papers, and what ſuſpicious People may poſſibly apprehend from ſome Paſſages in that which is called the *Report*.

That Paper mentions *Such Perſons to have been Examined, who were* Deſirous *and* Willing *to be heard upon that Subject*. I am told, they were Four in all, *Coleby*, *Brown*, Mr. *Finley* the Banker, and one more whoſe Name I know not. The firſt of theſe was Tryed for Robbing the Treaſury in *Ireland*, and although he were acquitted for want of Legal Proof, yet every Perſon in the Court believed him to be Guilty. The ſecond was Tryed for a *Rape*, and ſtands Recorded in the Votes of the Houſe of Commons, for endeavouring by *Perjury* and *Subornation*, to take away the Life of *John Bingham*, Eſq;

But ſince I have gone ſo far as to mention particular Perſons, it may be ſome Satisfaction to know who is this *Wood* himſelf, that has the Honour to have a whole Kingdom at his Mercy, for almoſt Two Years together. I find he is in the Patent Entitled *Eſq*; although he were underſtood to be only a *Hard-Ware-Man*, and ſo I have been bold to call him in my former Letters; however a '*Squire* he is, not only by Vertue of his Patent, but by having been a Collector in *Shropſhire*, where pretending to have been Robbed, and

Suing

Suing the County, he was Caſt, and for the Infamy of the Fact, loſt his Employment.

I have heard another Story of this 'Squire *Wood* from a very Honourable Lady, That one *Hamilton* told her. He (*Hamilton*) was ſent for Six Years ago by Sir *Iſaac Newton* to Try the Coynage of Four Men, who then Solicited a Patent for Coyning Half-pence for *Ireland*; their Names were *Wood*, *Coſter*, *Elliſton*, and *Parker*. *Parker* made the faireſt Offer, and *Wood* the worſt, for his Coyn were Three Half-pence in a Pound leſs Value than the other. By which it is plain with what Intentions he Solicited this Patent, but not ſo plain how he obtained it.

It is alledged in the ſaid Paper, called the *Report*, that upon repeated Orders from a Secretary of State, for ſending over ſuch Papers and Witneſſes, as ſhould be thought proper to Support the Objections made againſt the Patent (by Both Houſes of Parliament) the *Lord Lieutenant* Repreſented *The great Difficulty he found himſelf in to comply with theſe Orders. That none of the Principal Members of Both Houſes, who were in the King's Service or Council, would take upon them to Adviſe how any Material Perſon or Papers might be ſent over on this Occaſion*, &c. And this is often Repeated and Repreſented as *A Proceeding that ſeems very Extraordinary, and that in a Matter which had raiſed ſo great a* CLAMOUR *in* Ireland, *No one Perſon could be prevailed upon to come over from* Ireland *in Support of the United Senſe of both Houſes of Parliament in* Ireland, *eſpecially that the chief Difficulty ſhould ariſe from a General Apprehenſion of a Miſcarriage, in an Enquiry before his Majeſty, or in a Proceeding by due Courſe of Law, in a Caſe where Both Houſes of Parliament had declared*

clared themſelves ſo fully convinced, and ſatisfied upon Evidence, and Examinations taken in the moſt Solemn Manner.

How ſhall I, a poor Ignorant Shop Keeper, utterly unskill'd in Law, be able to anſwer ſo weighty an Objection. I will try what can be done by plain Reaſon, unaſſiſted by Art, Cunning or Eloquence.

In my humble Opinion, the Committee of Council, hath already prejudg'd the whole Caſe, by calling the United Senſe of both *Houſes* of *Parliament* in *Ireland* an UNIVERSAL CLAMOUR. Here the Addreſſes of the Lords and Commons of *Ireland* againſt a Ruinous Deſtructive Project of an *Obſcure, Single Undertaker*, is called a CLAMOUR. I deſire to know how ſuch a Stile would be Reſented in *England* from a Committee of Council there to a Parliament, and how many *Impeachments* would follow upon it. But ſuppoſing the Appellation to be proper, I never heard of a wiſe Miniſter who deſpiſed the UNIVERSAL CLAMOUR of a People, and if that CLAMOUR can be Quieted by diſappointing the Fraudulent Practice of a ſingle Perſon, the Purchaſe is not Exorbitant.

But in Anſwer to this Objection. Firſt it is manifeſt, that if this Coynage had been in *Ireland*, with ſuch Limitations as have been formerly ſpecified in other Patents, and Granted to Perſons of this Kingdom, or even of *England*, able to give ſufficient Security, few or no Inconveniencies could have happened, which might not have been immediately remedyed. As to Mr. *Knox*'s Patent mentioned in the Report, Security was given into the Exchequer, that the Patentee ſhould at any Time receive his Half-pence back, and pay Gold

or

or Silver in Exchange for them. And Mr. *Moor* (to whom I ſuppoſe that Patent was made over) was in 1694 forced to leave off Coyning, before the End of that Year, by the great Crouds of People continually offering to return his Coynage upon him. In 1698 he Coyned again, and was forced to give over for the ſame Reaſon. This entirely alters the Caſe; for there is no ſuch Condition in WOOD's Patent, which Condition was worth a Hundred Times all other Limitations whatſoever.

Put the Caſe, that the two Houſes of *Lords and Commons* of *England*, and the PRIVY COUNCIL there ſhould Addreſs his Majeſty to recal a Patent, from whence they apprehend the moſt ruinous Conſequences to the whole Kingdom: And to make it Stronger if poſſible, that the whole Nation, almoſt to a Man, ſhould thereupon Diſcover the *moſt Diſmal Apprehenſions* (as Mr. *Wood* ſtyles them) would his Majeſty debate half an Hour what he had to do? Would any Miniſter dare adviſe him againſt Recalling ſuch a Patent? Or would the Matter be referred to the *Privy Council* or to *Weſtminſter-Hall*, the two Houſes of *Parliament Plantiffs*, and *William Wood Defendant*? And is there even the ſmalleſt Difference between the two Caſes?

Were not the People of *Ireland* born as *Free* as thoſe of *England*? How have they forfeited their Freedom? Is not their *Parliament* as fair a *Repreſentative* of the *People* as that of *England*? And hath not their Privy Council as great or a greater Share in the Adminiſtration of Publick Affairs? Are they not Subjects of the ſame King? Does not the ſame *Sun* ſhine on them? And have they not the ſame *God* for their Protector? Am I a

Free-

Free-Man in *England*, and do I become a *Slave* in ſix Hours by croſſing the Channel? No Wonder then, if the boldeſt Perſons were cautious to interpoſe in a Matter already determined by the whole Voice of the Nation, or to preſume to repreſent the Repreſentatives of the Kingdom, and were juſtly apprehenſive of meeting ſuch a Treatment as they would deſerve at the next Seſſion. It would ſeem very extraordinary if an Inferiour Court in *England*, ſhould take a Matter out of the Hands of the High Court of Parliament, during a Prorogation, and decide it againſt the Opinion of Both Houſes.

It happens however, that, although no Perſons were ſo bold, as to go over as Evidences, to prove the Truth of the Objections made againſt this Patent by the *High Court of Parliament* here, yet theſe Objections ſtand Good, notwithſtanding the Anſwers made by *Wood* and his COUNCIL.

The *Report* ſays, that *upon an Aſſay made of the Fineneſs, Weight and Value of this Copper, it exceeded in every Article.* This is poſſible enough in the Pieces upon which the *Aſſay* was made; but *Wood* muſt have failed very much in Point of Dexterity, if he had not taken Care to provide a ſufficient Quantity of ſuch Halfpence as would bear the Tryal; which he was well able to do, although *they were taken out of ſeveral Parcels.* Since it is now Plain, that the Byaſs of Favour hath been wholly on his Side.

But what need is there of diſputing, when we have poſitive Demonſtration of *Wood*'s Fraudulent Practices in this Point. I have ſeen a large Quantity of theſe Half pence weighed by a very Skilful Perſon, which were of Four Different Kinds, Three of them conſiderably under weight.

I have now before me an exact Computation of the Difference of Weight between theſe Four Sorts, by which it appears that the Fourth Sort, or the Lighteſt, differs from the Firſt to a Degree, that, in the Coynage of Three hundred and ſixty Tuns of Copper, the Patentee will be a Gainer only, by that Difference of Twentyfour thouſand Four hundred and Ninety four Pounds, and in the whole, the Publick will be a Loſer of Eighty two thouſand One hundred and Sixty eight Pounds, Sixteen Shillings, even ſuppoſing the Metal in Point of Goodneſs to anſwer *Wood*'s Contract and the *Aſſay* that hath been made; which it infallibly doth not. For this Point hath likewiſe been enquired into by very Experienced Men, who, upon ſeveral Tryals in many of theſe Half-pence, have found them to be at leaſt one Fourth Part below the Real Value (not including the *Raps* or *Counterfeits* that he or his Accomplices have already made of *his own Coyn*, and ſcattered about) Now the Coynage of Three hundred and Sixty Tun of Copper Coyned by the Weight of the Fourth or Lighteſt Sort of his Half-pence will amount to One hundred Twenty two thouſand Four hundred Eighty eight Pounds, Sixteen Shillings, and if we Subſtract a Fourth Part of the Real Value by the *Baſe Mixture* in the Metal, we muſt add to the Publick Loſs one Fourth Part to be ſubſtracted from the Intrinſick Value of the Copper, which in Three hundred and Sixty Tuns amounts to Ten thouſand and Eighty Pounds, and this added to the former Sum of Eighty two thouſand One hundred Sixty eight Pounds, Sixteen Shillings, will make in all, Ninety two thouſand Two hundred Forty eight Pounds Loſs to the Publick; beſides the *Raps*

or Counterfeits that he may at any time hereafter think fit to Coyn . Nor do I know whether he reckons the DROSS Excluſive or Incluſive with his Three hundred and Sixty Tun of Copper ; which however will make a conſiderable Difference in the Account.

You will here pleaſe to obſerve, that the Profit allowed to *Wood* by the Patent is Twelve-pence out of every Pound of Copper valued at 1 s. 6 d. whereas 5 d. only is allowed for Coynage of a Pound Weight for the *Engliſh* Half-pence, and this Difference is almoſt 25 *per Cent.* which is double to the higheſt Exchange of Money, even under all the Additional Preſſures, and Obſtructions to Trade, that this unhappy Kingdom lies at preſent. This one Circumſtance in the Coynage of Three hundred and ſixty Tun of Copper makes a Difference of Twenty Seven thouſand Seven hundred and Twenty Pounds between *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* Half-pence, even allowing thoſe of *Wood* to be all of the heavyeſt Sort.

It is likewiſe to be conſidered, that for every Half-penny in a Pound Weight exceeding the Number directed by the Patent, *Wood* will be a Gainer in the Coynage of Three hundred and ſixty Tun of Copper, Sixteen hundred and eighty Pounds Profit more than the Patent allows him; Out of which he may afford to make his *Comptrollers* EASY upon that Article.

As to what is alledged, that *theſe Half-pence far exceed the like Coynage for* Ireland *in the Reigns of his Majeſties Predeceſſors* : There cannot well be a more exceptionable Way of Arguing : Although the Fact were true, which however is altogether miſtaken ; not by any Fault in the *Committee*, but by the Fraud and Impoſition of *Wood*, who certainly

ainly produced the worſt Patterns he could find, uch as were coyned in ſmall Numbers by *Permiſ-ions to Private Men*, as *Butchers Half-pence*, *Black Dogs* and the Like, or perhaps the Small *St. Patrick*'s Coyn which paſſes for a Farthing, or at beſt ſome of the ſmalleſt *Raps* of the lateſt Kind. For I have now by me ſome Half-pence coyned in the Year 1680 by vertue of the Patent granted to my *Lord Dartmouth*, which was renewed to *Knox*, and they are heavier by a ninth Part than thoſe of *Woods*, and in much better Metal. And the great *St. Patrick*'s Half-penny is yet larger than either.

But what is all this to the preſent Debate? If under the various Exigencies of former Times, by Wars, Rebellions, and Inſurrections, the Kings of *England* were ſometimes forced to pay their Armies here with mixt or baſe Money, God forbid that the Neceſſities of turbulent Times ſhould be a Precedent for Times of Peace, and Order, and Settlement.

In the Patent abovementioned granted to *Lord Dartmouth*, in the Reign of *King Charles* 2*d.* and renewed to *Knox*, the Securities given into the *Exchequer*, obliging the *Patentee* to receive his Money back upon every Demand, were an effectual Remedy againſt all Inconveniencies. And *the Copper was coyned in our own Kingdom*, ſo that we were in no Danger to purchaſe it with the Loſs of all our Silver and Gold carried over to another, nor to be at the Trouble of going to *England* for the Redreſſing of any Abuſe.

That the Kings of *England* have exerciſed their Prerogative of Coyning Copper for *Ireland* and for *England* is not the preſent Queſtion: But (to ſpeak in the Style of the Report) it would *ſeem*

a little extraordinary, ſuppoſing a King ſhould think fit to exerciſe his *Prerogative* by Coyning Copper in *Ireland*, to be current in *England* without referring it to his Officers in that Kingdom to be informed whether the Grant was reaſonable, and whether the People deſir'd it or no, and without regard to the Addreſſes of his Parliament againſt it, God forbid that ſo mean a Man as I ſhould meddle with the King's *Prerogative*; But I have heard very wiſe Men ſay, that the King's *Prerogative* is bounded and limited by the *Good* and *Welfare* of his *People*. I deſire to know, whether it is not underſtood and avowed that the Good of *Ireland* was intended by this Patent. But *Ireland* is not conſulted at all in the Matter, and as ſoon as *Ireland* is inform'd of it, they Declare againſt it; the *Two Houſes of Parliament* and the *Privy Council* addreſſes his Majeſty upon the Miſchiefs apprehended by ſuch a Patent. The *Privy Council* in *England* takes the Matter out of the PARLIAMENT's Cognizance; the Good of the Kingdom is dropt, and it is now determined that Mr. *Wood* ſhall have the Power of Ruining a whole Nation for his private Advantage.

I never can ſuppoſe that ſuch Patents as theſe were originally granted with the View of being a JOBB for the Intereſt of a Particular Perſon, to the Damage of the Publick: Whatever Profit muſt ariſe to the Patentee was ſurely meant at beſt but as a Secondary Motive, and ſince ſomebody muſt be a Gainer, the Choice of the Perſon was made either by Favour, or SOMETHING ELSE or by the Pretence of Merit and Honeſty. This Argument returns ſo often and ſtrongly into my Head, that I cannot forbear frequently repeating it. Surely his Majeſty, when he conſented to the Paſſing of this Patent, *Conceived* he was doing

n Act of Grace to his Moſt Loyal Subjects of *reland*, without any Regard to Mr. *Wood*, farther han as an *Inſtrument*. But the People of *Ireland* hink this Patent (intended NO DOUBT for heir Good) to be a moſt intolerable Grievance, nd therefore Mr. *Wood* can never ſucceed, with- ut an open Avowal that his Profit is preferred ot only before the *Intereſts*, but the very *Safety* nd *Being* of a great Kingdom; and a Kingdom iſtinguiſhed for its Loyalty, perhaps above all thers upon Earth. Not turned from its Duty by he *Juriſdiction of the Houſe of Lords, aboliſh'd at Stroak, by the Hardſhips of the Act of Navigati- on newly enforced: By all poſſible Obſtructions in Trade*, and by a Hundred other Inſtances, *enough o fill this Paper*. Nor was there ever among us he leaſt Attempt towards an *Inſurrection* in Fa- our of the PRETENDER. Therefore what- ver Juſtice a FREE PEOPLE can Claim we ave at leaſt an *Equal* Title to it with our Bre- hren in *England*, and whatever Grace a good rince can beſtow on the moſt *Loyal Subjects*, we ave Reaſon to expect it; Neither hath this ingdom any way deſerved to be Sacrificed to one *ingle, Rapacious, Obſcure, Ignominious* PRO- ECTOR.

Among other Clauſes mentioned in this *Patent*, o ſhew how Advantagious it is to *Ireland*, there one which ſeems to be of a *Singular Nature*; hat the *Patentee* ſhall be obliged, during his Term, *pay Eight hundred Pounds a Year to the Crown, nd Two hundred Pounds a Year to the Comptroller.* have heard indeed that the King's Council do ways conſider, in the Paſſing of a Patent, whe- her it will be of Advantage to the Crown, but I ave likewiſe heard that it is at the ſame Time

conſidered

conſidered whether the Paſſing of it may be in
jurious to any other Perſons or Bodys Politick
However, although the Attorney and Sollicito
be Servants to the King, and therefore bound t
conſult his Majeſty's Intereſt, yet I am unde
ſome Doubt whether Eight hundred Pounds
Year to the Crown would be equivalent to th
Ruin of a Kingdom. It would be far better fo
us to have paid Eight thouſand Pounds a Yea
into his Majeſties Coffers, in the midſt of all ou
Taxes (which, in Proportion, are greater in thi
Kingdom than ever they were in *England*, eve
during the War) than purchaſe ſuch an Additi
on to the Revenue at the Price of our UTTE
UNDOING.

But here it is plain that Fourteen thouſan
Pounds are to be paid by *Wood*, only as a *Sma*
Circumſtantial Charge for the Purchaſe of his Pa
tent, what were his other *Viſible Coſts* I know no
and what were his LATENT, is variouſly co
jectured. But he muſt be ſurely a Man of ſom
wonderful Merit. Hath he ſaved any other King
dom at his own Expence, to give him a Title
Re-imburſing himſelf by the *Deſtruction* of ours
Hath he diſcovered the *Longitude* or the *Un*
verſal Medicine? No. But he hath found out th
Philoſopher's Stone after a new Manner, by *Deba*
ſing of *Copper*, and reſolving to force it upon u
for *Gold*.

When the Two Houſes repeſented to his M
jeſty, that this *Patent* to *WOOD was obtain'd*
a Clandeſtine Manner, ſurely the Committee cou
not think the Parliament would inſinuate that
had not paſſed in the common Forms, and ru
through every Office where Fees and Perquiſit
were due. They knew very well that Perſo

in Places were no Enemies to Grants, and that the Officers of the Crown could not be kept in the Dark. But the *Late Lord Lieutenant of Ireland* affirmed it was a Secret to him (and who will doubt of his VERACITY, eſpecially when he Swore to a Perſon of Quality; from whom I had it, that *Ireland* ſhould never be troubled with theſe Half pence.) It was a *Secret* to the People of *Ireland*, who were to be the *Only Sufferers*, and thoſe who beſt knew the State of the Kingdom and were moſt able to adviſe in ſuch an Affair, were wholly Strangers to it.

It is allowed by the *Report* that this *Patent* was paſſed without the Knowledge of the Chief Governour or Officers of *Ireland*: And it is there elaborately ſhewn, that *Former Patents have paſſed in the ſame Manner*, and *are good in Law*. I ſhall not diſpute the Legality of Patents, but am ready to ſuppoſe it in his Majeſty's Power to grant a Patent for Stamping Round Bits of Copper to every Subject he hath. Therefore to lay aſide the Point of Law, I would only put the Queſtion, whether in *Reaſon* and *Juſtice* it would not have been proper, in an Affair upon which the *Welfare of a Kingdom depends*, that the ſaid Kingdom ſhould have received timely Notice, and the Matter not be carried on between the *Patentee* and the *Officers of the* CROWN, who were to be the *only* Gainers by it.

The Parliament, who in Matters of this Nature are the moſt able and Faithful Councellors, did repreſent this Grant to be *deſtructive of Trade, and Dangerous to the Properties of the People*, to which the only Anſwer is, That *the King hath a Prerogative to make ſuch a Grant*.

It

It is asserted that in the Patent to *Knox*, His *Half-pence, are made and declared the Current Coyn of the Kingdom*, whereas in this to *Wood*, there is only a *Power given to issue them to such as will receive them.* The Authors of the *Report*, I think, do not affirm that the King can by Law Declare *any thing* to be Current Money by his Letters Patents. I dare say they will not affirm it, and if *Knox*'s Patent contained in it Powers contrary to Law, why is it mentioned as a Precedent in his Majesties *Just and Merciful Reign* : But although that Clause be not in *Wood*'s Patent, yet possibly there are others, the Legality whereof may be equally doubted, and particularly that, whereby *a Power is given to* William Wood *to break into Houses in search of any Coyn made in Imitation of His.* This may perhaps be affirmed to be Illegal and Dangerous to the Liberty of the Subject. Yet this is a *Precedent* taken from *Knox*'s Patent, where the same Power is granted, and is a Strong Instance what Uses may be sometimes made of *Precedents.*

But although before the Passing of this Patent, it was not thought necessary to consult any Persons of this Kingdom, or make the least Enquiry whether Copper Money were wanted among us; Yet now at length, when the Matter is over, when the Patent hath long passed, when *Wood* hath already Coyned Seventeen Thousand Pounds, and hath his Tools and Implements prepared to Coyn *Six-times* as much more; the Committee hath been pleased to make this Affair the Subject of Enquiry. *Wood* is permitted to produce his Evidences, which consist as I have already observed, of Four in Number, whereof *Coleby*, *Brown* and Mr. *Finley* the Banker are Three. And these were to prove that

that Copper Money was extreamly wanted in *Ireland*. The first had been out of the Kingdom almost Twenty Years, from the Time that he was tryed for *Robbing the Treasury*, and therefore his *Knowledge* and *Credibility* are equal. The Second may be allowed a more *Knowing* Witness, because I think it is not above a Year since the House of Commons ordered the Attorney General to Prosecute him, for endeavouring *to take away the Life of* John Bingham *Esq*; *Member of Parliament by Perjury and Subornation*. He asserted that he was forced to Tally with his Labourers for want of Small Money (which hath often been practised in *England* by Sir *Ambrose Crawly* and others) but those who knew him better give a different reason, (if there be any Truth at all in the Fact) that he was forced to Tally with his Labourers not for want of Half-pence, but of *more Substantial Money*, which is highly possible, because the Race of *Suborners*, *Forgers*, *Perjurors* and *Ravishers*, are usually People of no Fortune, or of those who have Run it out by their Vices and Profuseness. Mr. *Finley* the Third Witness honestly confessed, that he was Ignorant whether *Ireland* wanted Copper Money or no; but all his Intention was to buy a certain Quantity from *Wood* at a *large Discount*, and Sell them as well as he could, by which he hoped to get Two or Three Thousand Pounds for himself.

But suppose there were not one Single Half-penny of Copper Coyn in this whole Kingdom (which Mr. *Wood* seems to intend, unless we will come to his Terms, as appears by employing his Emissarys to buy up our Old ones at a Penny in the Shilling more than they Pass for) It could not be any *real Evil* to us, although it might be some *Inconvenience*. We have many Sorts of small

Silver Coyns, to which they are Strangers in *England*, ſuch as the French *Three-pences*, *Four-pence half-pennys* and *Eight-pence-half-pennys*, the *Scotch Five-pences* and *Ten-pences*, beſides their *Twenty-pences*, and *Three and Four-pences*, by all which we are able to make Change to a Half-penny of almoſt any Piece of Gold or Silver, and if we are driven to *Brown's* Expedient of a *Sealed Card*, with the little Gold or Silver ſtill remaining, it will I ſuppoſe, be ſomewhat better than to have nothing left but *Wood's* Adulterated Copper, which he is neither *obliged* by his *Patent*, nor hitherto *able* by his *Eſtate* to make good.

The Report farther tells us, it *muſt be admitted that Letters Patents under the great Seal of* Great-Britain *for Coyning Copper Money for* Ireland *are Legal and Obligatory, a Juſt and Reaſonable Exerciſe of his Majeſties Royal Prerogative, and in no manner Derogatory or Invaſive of ANY Liberty or Privilege of his Subjects of* Ireland. Firſt we deſire to know, why his Majeſty's *Prerogative* might not have been as well aſſerted, by Paſſing this Patent in *Ireland*, and Subjecting the ſeveral Conditions of the Contract to the Inſpection of thoſe who are only concerned, as was formerly done in the only Precedents for Patents granted for Coyning for this Kingdom, ſince the mixt Money in Queen *Elizabeth's* Time, during the Difficulties of a Rebellion: Whereas now upon the greateſt Impoſition that can poſſibly be practiſed, we muſt go to *England* with our Complaints, where it hath been for ſome Time the Faſhion to think and to affirm that *We cannot be too hardly uſed.* Again the *Report* ſays, that *Such Patents are Obligatory.* After long thinking, I am not able to find out what can poſſibly be meant here by this Word *Obligatory.*

This

This Patent of *Wood* neither *Obligeth* him to Utter his Coyn, nor us to take it, or if it did the latter, it would be ſo far Void, becauſe no Patent can *Oblige* the Subject againſt Law, unleſs an illegal Patent paſſed in *One* Kingdom can Bind *Another* and not itſelf.

Laſtly, it is added that *Such Patents are in no Manner Derogatory or Invaſive of any Liberty or Privilege of the King's Subjects of* Ireland. If this Propoſition be true, as it is here laid down, without any Limitation either expreſſed or Implyed, it muſt follow that a King of *England* may at any Time Coyn Copper Money for *Ireland*, and oblige his Subjects here to take a Piece of Copper under the Value of Half a Farthing for Half a Crown, as was practiſed by the late King *James*, and even without that Arbitrary Prince's Excuſe, from the Neceſſity and Exigences of his Affairs. If this be in no Manner *Derogatory nor Evaſive of any Liberties or Privileges of the Subjects of* Ireland, it ought to have been expreſſed what our *Liberties* and *Privileges* are, and whether we have any attall, for in Specifying the Word *IRELAND*, inſtead of ſaying *His Majeſty's Subjects*, it would ſeem to inſinuate that we are not upon the ſame Foot with our Fellow Subjects in *England*; which, however the Practice may have been, I hope will never be directly aſſerted, for I do not underſtand that *Poining*'s Act deprived us of our *Liberty*, but only changed the Manner of paſſing Laws here (which however was a Power moſt indirectly obtained) by leaving the Negative to the Two Houſes of Parliament. But, waving all Controverſies relating to the Legiſlature, no Perſon, I believe, was ever yet ſo bold as to affirm that the People of *Ireland* have not the ſame Title to the Benefits

of the COMMON LAW, with the reſt of his Majeſty's Subjects, and therefore whatever Liberties or Privileges the People of *England* enjoy by COMMON LAW, we of *Ireland* have the ſame; ſo that in my humble Opinion, the Word *Ireland* ſtanding in that Propoſition, was, in the mildeſt Interpretation, *A Lapſe of the Pen.*

The *Report* farther aſſerts, that *The Precedents are many, wherein Caſes of great Importance to* Ireland, *and that immediately affected the Intereſts of that Kingdom, Warrants, Orders, and Directions by the Authority of the King and his* Predeceſſors, *have been iſſued under the Royal Sign Manual, without any previous Reference or Advice of his Majeſty's Officers of* Ireland, *which have always had their due Force, and have been punctually comply'd with, and Obeyed.* It may be ſo, and I am heartily ſorry for it, becauſe it may prove an Eternal Source of Diſcontent. However among all theſe *Precedents* there is not one of a Patent for Coyning Money for *Ireland.*

There is nothing hath perplexed me more than this Doctrine of PRECEDENTS. If a Jobb is to be done, and upon ſearching Records you find it hath been done before, there will not want a Lawyer to Juſtify the Legality of it, by producing his *Precedents*, without ever conſidering the Motives and Circumſtances that firſt introduced them, the Neceſſity or Turbulence or Iniquity of Times, the Corruptions of Miniſters, or the Arbitrary Diſpoſition of the Prince then Reigning. And I have been told by Perſons eminent in the Law, that the worſt Actions which Humane Nature is capable of, may be juſtified by the ſame Doctrine. How the firſt *Precedents* began of Determining Caſes of the Higheſt Importance to *Ireland*,

land, and immediately affecting it's Intereſt, without any previous Reference or Advice to the King's Officers here, may ſoon be accounted for. Before this Kingdom was entirely Reduced by the Submiſſion of *Tyrone* in the laſt Year of Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, there was a Period of Four Hundred Years, which was a various Scene of War and Peace between the *Engliſh* Pale and the *Iriſh* Natives, and the Government of that Part of this Iſland which lay in the *Engliſh* Hands, was, in many Things under the immediate Adminiſtration of the King. Silver and Copper were often Coyned here among us, and once at leaſt upon great Neceſſity, a mixt or baſe Metal was ſent from *England*. The Reign of King *James* Iſt. was employed in ſettling the Kingdom after *Tyrone*'s Rebellion, and this Nation flouriſhed extreamly till the Time of the Maſſacre 1641. In that difficult Juncture of Affairs, the Nobility and Gentry Coyned their own Plate here in *Dublin*.

By all that I can diſcover, the Copper Coyn of *Ireland* for Three Hundred Years paſt conſiſted of ſmall Pence and Half-pence, which particular Men had Licence to Coyn, and were current only within certain Towns and Diſtricts, according to the perſonal Credit of the Owner who uttered them, and was bound to receive them again, whereof I have ſeen many Sorts; neither have I heard of any Patent granted for Coyning Copper for *Ireland* till the Reign of King *Charles* II. which was in the Year 1680. to *George Leg* Lord *Dartmouth*, and Renewed by King *James* II. in the firſt Year of his Reign to *John Knox*. Both Patents were paſſed in *Ireland*, and in both the Patentees were obliged to receive their Coyn again to any that would offer them Twenty Shillings

of

of it, for which they were obliged to pay Gold or Silver.

The Patents both of Lord *Dartmouth* and *Knox* were Referred to the Attorney General here, and a Report made accordingly, and both, as I have already ſaid, were paſſed in this Kingdom. *Knox* had only a Patent for the Remainder of the Term Granted to Lord *Dartmouth*, the Patent expir'd in 1701. and upon a Petition by *Roger Moor* to have it Renewed, the Matter was referred hither, and upon the Report of the Attorney and Solicitor, that it was not for his Majeſty's Service or the Intereſt of the Nation to have it Renewed, it was Rejected by King *William*. It ſhould therefore ſeem very *Extraordinary*, that a Patent for Coyning Copper Half-pence, intended and profeſſed for the Good of the Kingdom, ſhould be paſſed without once conſulting that Kingdom, for the Good of which it is declared to be intended, and this upon the Application of a *Poor*, *Private Obſcure Mechanick*; and a Patent of ſuch a Nature, that as ſoon as ever the Kingdom is informed of it's being paſſed, they cry out Unanimouſly againſt it as *Ruinous* and *Deſtructive*. The Repreſentative of the Nation in Parliament, and the Privy-Council Addreſs the King to have it Recall'd; yet the Patentee, ſuch a one as I have deſcribed, ſhall prevail to have this Patent approved, and his private Intereſt ſhall weigh down the Application of a whole Kingdom. St. *Paul* ſays, *All things are* Lawful, *but all things are not* Expedient. We are Anſwered that this Patent is *Lawful*, but is it *Expedient*? We Read that the High Prieſt ſaid *It was expedient that one Man ſhould Die for the People*; And this was a moſt wicked Propoſition. But that a *Whole Nation* ſhould *Die for one Man*, was never heard of before. But

But becauſe much Weight is laid on the *Precedents* of other Patents, for *Coyning Copper for* Ireland, I will ſet this Matter in as clear a Light as I can. Whoever hath Read the *Report*, will be apt to think, that a Dozen Precedents at leaſt could be produced of Copper Coyned for *Ireland*, by Vertue of Patents paſſed in *England*. and that the Coynage was there too; whereas I am confident, there cannot be one *Precedent* ſhewn of a Patent paſſed in *England* for Coyning Copper for *Ireland*, for above an Hundred Years paſt, and if there were any before, it muſt be in Times of Confuſion, The only *Patents* I could ever hear of, are thoſe already mentioned to Lord *Dartmouth* and *Knox*; the Former in 1680. and the Latter in 1685. Now let us compare theſe Patents with that granted to *VVood*. Firſt, The Patent to *Knox*, which was under the ſame Conditions as that granted to Lord *Dartmouth*, was Paſſed in *Ireland*, the Government and the *Attorney* and *Solicitor* General making Report that it would be uſeful to this Kingdom.

The Patent was Paſſed with the Advice of the *King's Council* here; The *Patentee* was obliged to receive his Coyn from thoſe who thought themſelves ſurcharged, and to give *Gold* and *Silver* for it; Laſtly, The *Patentee* was to pay only 161. 13 s. 4 d. per Ann. to the Crown. Then, as to the Execution of that Patent. Firſt, I find the Half-pence were *Milled*, which, as it is of great Uſe to prevent Counterfeits (and therefore induſtriouſly avoided by *VVood*) ſo it was an Addition to the Charge of Coynage. And for the Weight

and

and Goodneſs of the Metal; I have ſeveral Half-pence now by me, many of which weigh a Ninth Part more than thoſe coyned by *VVood*, and bear the Fire and Hammar a great deal better; and which is no Trifle, the Impreſſion Fairer and Deeper. I grant indeed, that many of the latter Coynage yield in Weight to ſome of *VVood*'s, by a *Fraud* natural to ſuch *Patentees*; but not ſo immediately after the Grant, and before the Coyn grew Current: For in this Circumſtance Mr. *VVood* muſt ſerve for a *Precedent* in *Future Times*.

Let us now examine this new Patent granted to *William Wood*. It Paſſed upon very falſe Suggeſtions of his own, and of a few Confederates: It paſſed in *England*, without the leaſt Reference hither. It paſſed unknown to the very *Lord Lieutenant*, then in *England*. *Wood* is empowered to Coyn One hundred and Eight thouſand Pounds, *and all the* Officers *in the Kingdom* (Civil and Military) *are commanded* in the Report to Countenance and aſſiſt him. *Knox* had only Power to utter what we would take, and was obliged *to receive his Coyn back again at our Demand*, and to *enter into Security for ſo doing*. *Wood*'s Half-pence are not *Milled*, and therefore more eaſily Counterfeited by *himſelf* as well as by others. *Wood* pays a Thouſand Pounds per Ann. for 14 Years, *Knox* paid only 161. 13 s. 4 d. per Ann. for 21 Years.

It was the *Report* that ſet me the Example of making a Compariſon between thoſe two Patents, wherein the *Committee* was groſsly miſled by the falſe Repreſentation of *William Wood*, as it was by another Aſſertion, that Seven hundred Tun of Copper were coyned during the 21 Years of Lord *Dartmouth*'s and *Knox*'s Patents. Such a Quantity

tity of Copper at the Rate of 2 s. 8 d. per Pound would amount to about an Hundred and Ninety thouſand Pounds, which was very near as much as the Current Caſh of the Kingdom in thoſe Days; yet, during that Period, *Ireland* was never known to have too much Copper Coyn, and for ſeveral Years there was no coyning at all: Beſides I am aſſured, that upon enquiring into the Cuſtom-Houſe Books, all the Copper imported into the Kingdom, from 1683 to 1692. which includes 8 Years of the 21 (beſides one Year allowed for the Troubles) did not exceed 47 Tuns, and we cannot ſuppoſe even that ſmall Quantity to have been wholly apply'd to Coynage: So that I believe there was never any Compariſon more unluckily made or ſo deſtructive of the Deſign for which it was produced.

The Pſalmiſt reckons it an Effect of God's Anger, when *he ſelleth his People for Nought, and taketh no Money for them.* That we have greatly offended *God* by the Wickedneſs of our Lives is not to be diſputed: But our King we have not offended in Word or Deed; And although he be *God*'s Vice-gerent upon Earth, he will not puniſh us for any Offences, except thoſe which we ſhall commit againſt his Legal Authority, his Sacred Perſon (which God preſerve) or the Laws of the Land.

The Report is very profuſe in Arguments, that *Ireland* is in great want of Copper Money. Who were the *Witneſſes* to prove it, hath been ſhewn already, but in the Name of God, Who are to be *Judges*? Does not the Nation beſt know its own Wants? Both Houſes of Parliament, the Privy-Council and the whole Body of the People declare the Contrary; Or let the Wants be what they

they will, We desire they may not be supply'd by Mr. *VVood*. We know our own *VVants* but too well; They are *Many* and *Grievous* to be born, but quite of another Kind. Let *England* be satisfied; As things go, they will in a short Time have all our Gold and Silver, and may keep their Adulterate Copper at Home, for we are determined not to purchase it with our Manufactures, which *VVood* hath Graciously offered to accept. Our *VVants* are not so bad by an Hundredth Part as the Method he hath taken to supply them. He hath already tryed his Faculty in *New-England*, and I hope he will meet at least with an EQUAL RECEPTION here; what *That* was I leave to Publick Intelligence. I am supposing a Wild Case, that if there should be any Person already receiving a Monstrous Pension out of this Kingdom, who was Instrumental in Procuring this *Patent*, they have either not well consulted their own Interests, or *Wood* must put more Dross into his Copper and still diminish its Weight.

Upon *Wood*'s Complaint that the Officers of the King's Revenue here had already given Orders to all the Inferiour Officers not to receive any of his Coyn, the *Report* says, That *this cannot but be looked upon as a very extraordinary Proceeding*, and being contrary to the Powers given in the Patent, the *Committee* say, They *cannot advise his Majesty to give Directions to the Officers of the Revenue here, not to receive or utter any of the said Coyn as has been desired in the Addresses of Both Houses*, but on the contrary, they *think it both Just and Reasonable that the King should immediately give Orders to the Commissioners of the Revenue, &c. to revoke all Orders, &c. that may have been given by them to hinder or obstruct the receiving*

eceiving the ſaid Coyn. And accordingly, we are told, ſuch Orders are arrived. Now this was a Caſt of *Wood's* Politicks; for his Information was wholly Falſe and Groundleſs, which he knew very well; and that the Commiſſioners of the Revenue here were all, except one, ſent us from *England*, and love their Employments too well to have taken ſuch a Step: But *Wood* was wiſe enough to conſider, that ſuch Orders of *Revocation* would be an open Declaration of the Crown in his Favour, would put the Government here under a Difficulty, would make a Noiſe, and poſſibly create ſome Terror in the Poor People of *Ireland*. And one great Point he hath gained, that although any Orders of Revocation will be needleſs, yet a new Order is to be ſent, and perhaps already here, to the Commiſſioners of the Revenue, and all the King's Officers in *Ireland*, that *Wood's Half pence be ſuffered and permitted, without any Let, Suit, Trouble, Moleſtation or Denial of any of the King's Officers or Miniſters whatſoever, to Paſs and be received as* CURRENT MONEY *by ſuch as ſhall be* Willing *to receive them.* In this Order there is no Exception, and therefore, as far as I can judge, it includes all *Officers* both *Civil* and *Military*, from the *Lord High Chancellor* to a *Juſtice* of *Peace*, and from the *General* to an *Enſign*: So that *Wood's* Project is not likely to fail for want of *Managers* enough. For my own Part, as things ſtand, I have but little Regret to find my ſelf out of the *Number*, and therefore I ſhall continue in all Humility to Exhort and Warn my Fellow-Subjects never to Receive or Utter this Coyn, which will Reduce the Kingdom to Beggary by much *Quicker and larger Steps* than have *Hitherto* been taken.

But it is needleſs to argue any longer. The Matter is come to an Iſſue. His Majeſty *Purſuant to the Law*, hath left the *Field* open between *Wood* and the Kingdom of *Ireland*. *Wood* hath Liberty to *Offer* his Coyn, and We have *Law, Reaſon, Liberty* and *Neceſſity* to refuſe it. A knaviſh Jocky may Ride an old Foundred Jade about the Market, but none are obliged to Buy it. I hope the Words *Voluntary* and *Willing to receive it* will be underſtood, and applyed in their true Natural Meaning, *As commonly underſtood by* PROTESTANTS. For if a *Fierce Captain* comes to my Shop to Buy Six Yards of Scarlet Cloth, followed by a Porter laden with a Sack of *Wood's* Coyn upon his Shoulders, if we are agreed about the Price, and my

Scarlet

Scarlet Ives ready cut upon the Counter, if he then give me the *Word of Command*, to receive my Money in *Wood's* Coyn, and calls me a *Diſaffected Jacobite Dog* for refuſing it (although I an as Loyal a Subject as himſelf, and *Without Hire*) and thereupon Seizes my Cloth, leaving me the Price in this Odious Copper, and bids me take my Remedy: In this Caſe, I ſhall hardly be brought to think that I am *Left to my own Will*. I ſhall therefore on ſuch Occaſions, firſt order the Porter aforeſaid to go off with his Pack, and then ſee the Money in *Silver* and *Gold* in my Poſſeſſion before I Cut or Meaſure my Cloth. But if a *Common Soldier* drinks his Pot firſt, and then offers Payment in *Wood's* Half-pence, the *Landlady* may be under ſome Difficulty; For if ſhe complains to his *Captain* or *Enſign*, they are likewiſe OFFICERS, included in this General Order for encouraging theſe Half-pence to paſs as CURRENT MONEY. If ſhe goes to a Juſtice of *Peace*, he is alſo an *Officer*, to whom this General Order is directed. I do therefore Adviſe her to follow my Practice, which I have already begun, and be payed for her Goods before ſhe parts with them. However I ſhould have been content, for ſome Reaſons, that the *Military Gentlemen* had been excepted by Name, becauſe I have heard it ſaid, that their Diſcipline is beſt confined within their own Diſtrict.

His Majeſty in the Concluſion of his Anſwer to the Addreſs of the Houſe of Lords againſt *Wood's* Coyn, is pleaſed to ſay that *He will do every Thing in his Power for the Satisfaction of his People*. It ſhould ſeem therefore, that the Recalling the Patent is not to be underſtood as a Thing *In his Power*. But however ſince the Law does not oblige us to receive this Coyn, and conſequently the Patent leaves it to our Voluntary Choice, there is nothing remaining to preſerve us from Ruin but that the whole Kingdom ſhould continue in a firm determinate Reſolution never to Receive or Utter this FATAL *Coyn*: After which, let the *Officers* to whom theſe Orders are directed, (I would willingly except the *Military*) come with their *Exhortations*, their *Arguments* and their *Eloquence*, to perſuade us to find our Intereſt in our Undoing. Let *Wood* and his *Accomplices* Travel about the Country with *Cart-Loads* of their *Ware*, and ſee who will take it off their Hands, there will be no Fear of his being Robbed, for a *Highway-Man* would ſcorn to touch it.

am only in Pain how the *Commiſſioners* of the *Revenue* l proceed in this Juncture; becauſe I am told they are iged by Act of Parliament to take nothing but *Gold Silver* in Payment for His Majeſty's *Cuſtoms*, and I nk they cannot Juſtly offer this Coynage of Mr. *Wood* others, unleſs they will be content to receive it themves.

The Sum of the whole is this. The *Committee Adviſes King to ſend immediate Orders to all his Officers here, that ood's Coyn be Suffered and Permitted without any Let, Suit, uble, &c. to paſs and be received as* CURRENT MONEY *uch as ſhall be* WILLING *to receive the ſame.* It is proble, that the firſt *WILLING Receivers* may be thoſe o *Muſt Receive it whether they will or no*, at leaſt under Penalty of loſing an Office. But the *Landed Undepeng Men*, the *Merchants*, the *Shop-Keepers* and Bulk of the ople, I hope, and am almoſt confident, will never reve it. What muſt the Conſequence be? The Owners ll Sell it for as much as they can get. *Wood*'s Halfnce will come to be offered for Six a Penny (yet then will be a ſufficient Gainer) and the *Neceſſary Receivers* ll be Loſers of Two Thirds in their *Salaries* or *Pay*.

This puts me in Mind of a Paſſage I was told many Years o in *England*. At a Quarter-Seſſions in *Leiceſter*, the Juces had wiſely decreed, to take off a Half-penny in a art from the Price of Ale. One of them, who came in er the thing was determined, being inform'd of what had ed, ſaid thus: *Gentlemen; You have made an Order, that ſhould be ſold in our Country for Three Half pence a Quart: ſire you will now make another to appoint who muſt Drink* for BY G——— I WILL NOT.

I muſt beg leave to caution your *Lordſhips* and *rſhips* in one Particular. *Wood* hath graciouſly omiſed to *Load* us at preſent only with Fourty ouſand Pounds of his Coyn, *till the Exigences the Kingdom require the Reſt.* I intreat you ll never ſuffer Mr. *Wood* to be a Judge of your IGENCES. While there is one Piece of er or Gold remaining in the Kingdom he will it an EXIGENCY, he will double his pre- *Quantum* by Stealth as ſoon as he can, and will

will have the Remainder ſtill to the Good. H will Pour his own *Raps* and Counterfeits upon us *France* and *Holland* will do the ſame; nor will ou own Coyners at home be behind them: To con firm which, I have now in my Pocket a *Rap* o Counterfeit Half-penny in imitation of His, bu ſo ill performed, that in my Conſcience I believ it is not of his Coyning.

I muſt now deſire your *Lordſhips* and *Worſhip* that you will give great Allowance for this lon undigeſted Paper, I find my ſelf to have gone int ſeveral Repetitions, which were the Effects Haſte, while new Thoughts fell in to add ſome thing to what I had ſaid before. I think I ma affirm that I have fully anſwered every Paragrap in the *Report*, which although it be not unartfull drawn, and is perfectly in the Spirit of a Pleade who can find the moſt plauſable Topicks in beha of his Client, yet there was no great Skill requir to detect the many Miſtakes contained in it, whic however are by no means to be charged upon th Right Honourable Committee, but upon the mo Falſe Impudent and Fraudulent Repreſentations *Wood* and his Accomplices. I deſire one Parti cular may dwell upon your Minds, although I ha mentioned it more than once; That after all th Weight layed upon *Precedents* there is not on produced in the whole *Report*, of a Patent for Coy ing Copper in *England* to Paſs in *Ireland*, and onl two Patents referred to (for indeed there were n more) which were both paſſed in *Ireland*, by Ref rences to the King's Council here, both leſs Adva tagious to the Coyner than this of *Wood*, and in bot *Securities given to receive the Coyn at every Call, a give Gold and Silver in Lieu of it.* This Demo ſtrates the moſt Flagrant Falſhood and Impuden

of *Wood*, by which he would endeavour to make the Right Honourable Committee his Instruments, (for his own Illegal and Exorbitant Gain,) to Ruin a Kingdom, which hath deserved *quite different Treatment*.

I am very Sensible that such a Work as I have undertaken might have worthily employed a much better Pen. But when a House is attempted to be Robbed it often happens that the weakest in the Family runs first to stop the Door. All the Assistance I had were some Informations from an *Eminent Person*, whereof I am afraid I have Spoiled a Few by endeavouring to make them of a Piece with my own Productions, and the Rest I was not able to manage: I was in the Case of *David* who *could not move in the Armour of* Saul, and therefore I rather chose to attack this *Uncircumcised Philistine* (*VVood* I mean) *with a Sling and a Stone*. And I may say for *Wood*'s Honour as well as my own, that he Resembles *Goliah* in many Circumstances, very applicable to the present Purpose; For *Goliah* had *a Helmet of Brass upon his Head, and he was Armed with a Coat of Mail, and the weight of the Coat was Five Thousand Sheakles of Brass and he had Greaves of Brass upon his Legs, and a Target of Brass between his Shoulders*. In short he was like Mr. *VVood*, all over *Brass*; And *he defied the Armies of the Living God*. *Goliah's* Condition of Combat were likewise the same with those of *VVood*. *If he prevail against us, then shall we be his Servants*: But if it happens that I *prevail* over him, I Renounce the other part of the Condition, he shall never be a *Servant* of Mine, for I do not think him fit to be Trusted in any *Honest* Man's Shop.

I will conclude with my Humble Desire and Request which I made in my Second Letter; That your

your *Lordſhips* and *VVorſhips* would pleaſe to Order a *Declaration* to be drawn up expreſſing, in the Strongeſt Terms, your firm Reſolutions never to receive or Utter any of *VVood's* Half-pence or Farthings, and forbidding your Tenants to receive them. That the ſaid *Declaration* may be Signed by as many Perſons as poſſible who have Eſtates in this Kingdom, and be ſent Down to your ſeveral Tenants aforeſaid.

And if the Dread of *VVood's* Half-pence ſhould continue till next *Quarter Seſſions* (which I hope it will not) the Gentlemen of every County will then have a fair Opportunity of Declaring againſt them with Unanimity and Zeal.

I am with the greateſt Reſpect,

(*May it pleaſe your Lordſhips and VVorſhips*)

Your moſt Dutiful and

Aug. 25. 1724. *Obedient Servant,*

M. B.